

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 106395
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 H-01 SSO-00 PM-05 INR-10
INRE-00 SP-02 MCE-00 L-03 EB-08 EUR-12 /067 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JWTTWINAM
APPROVED BY NEA /ARP:JTWINAM
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O 261816Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 106395

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE SECRETARY FROM SENATOR CASE

1. ON FYI BASIS YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF APRIL 21 LETTER
FROM SENATOR CASE TO SECRETARY ON SAUDI INTENTIONS RE
PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT IN ADDITION TO 60 F-15S. TEXT
FOLLOWS: QTE: REGARDING THE PROPOSED SALE OF F-15S TO
SAUDI ARABIA, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTED AS
SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT AWARE THAT THE SAUDIS
ARE PLANNING TO ACQUIRE ADVANCED AIRCRAFT BEYOND THE
CURRENTLY PROPOSED 60 F-15S AND THAT THE US GOVERNMENT
"HAS NO PLANS TO SELL ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

"IN VIEW OF THE REMARKS OF AIR FORCE SECRETARY, JOHN
STETSON, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THERE HAVE BEEN DIS-
CUSSIONS OF ANY KIND WITH THE SAUDIS REGARDING ADDITIONAL
AIRCRAFT. IF THERE HAS BEEN, WHAT ASSURANCES ARE THERE
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THAT THE SAUDIS WILL NOT EVENTUALLY REQUEST ADDITIONAL
PLANES?

"ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS RECENTLY HAVE SAID THAT THE
FRENCH AT ONE TIME THOUGHT THEY WERE CLOSE TO OBTAINING A
LETTER OF INTENT FROM THE SAUDIS TO BUY NEW FRENCH MIRAGES.
I WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING THE TIME FRAME OF THESE

FRENCH-SAUDI DISCUSSIONS AND IF IT IS KNOWN HOW MANY PLANES WERE DISCUSSED. IF THE F-15 SALE IS APPROVED, WHAT ASSURANCES ARE THERE THAT THE SAUDIS MAY NOT BUY FRENCH AIRCRAFT ANYWAY, EITHER TO BE FLOWN BY THEMSELVES OR OTHER PILOTS FOR THEIR OWN AIR FORCE OR OTHER ARAB AIR FORCES? HOW MANY AIRCRAFT IS SAUDI ARABIA HELPING TO PURCHASE FOR OTHER NATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WHAT IS THE STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS ON FUTURE POSSIBLE SALES, PARTICULARLY WITH THE FRENCH AND BRITISH?

"ALSO, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY CONTRACTUAL INHIBITIONS AGAINST THE USE OF PLANES FINANCED BY THE SAUDIS FOR OTHER AIR FORCES FOR THE DEFENSE OF SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF." VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, LEGISLATIVE MAIL, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: MASS, PGOV, SA, (CASE, CLIFFORD P), (VANCE, CYRUS R)
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Review Markings:
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